

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 00023 with the following new paragraph:

---

a1 [00023] FIG. 2 shows a first preferred embodiment of the present invention, which includes a tap 22 that has been modified to support a BTP 30. Preferably, the tap 22 is located just downstream from an amplifier 20 so that the BTP 30 can monitor all ingress sources for the branch 18 on which the tap 22 is located. The branch 18 enters the upstream end of the tap 22 and is divided by a diplexer 32 into an AC power line 34 and an RF line 36 and again rejoined by a diplexer 38. As is conventional, the tap 22 includes an upstream-facing directional coupler 40, which is configured to pass signals back and forth in the upstream direction only. The upstream-facing directional coupler 40 is connected to a series of splitters 42, which divide the line into multiple (in this case, eight) drop lines 24, most of which are available for connection to subscriber terminals (not shown). One of the drop lines 24 is connected to a modem 62 located in the BTP 30, the function of which will be described in greater detail herein.

---

Please replace paragraph 00037 with the following new paragraph:

---

a2 [00037] In accordance with the present invention, the node 216 includes a BTP 230 having an ingress-monitoring interface 260 and a modem 262. A downstream-facing directional coupler 240 is located on each of the ~~downstream~~ upstream signal

a2  
cont.

coaxial lines ~~286~~ 284 downstream from the splitters 242. Each downstream-facing directional coupler 240 is connected to the ingress monitoring interface 260 by a line 276. This configuration enables the ingress monitoring interface to monitor ingress downstream from the node 216 in each of the four branches 218 individually. The upstream-facing directional coupler 256 is preferably located on the coaxial line 284 between the splitters 242 and the transmitter 280 and is connected by a line 258 to the modem 262. Power for the BTP 230 is preferably provided internally by the node 216 via power passing.

---

Please replace paragraph 00038 with the following new paragraph:

---

a3

[00038] FIG. 6 shows the incorporation of a BTP 330 into an amplifier 320. In the amplifier 320, forward and reverse amplifiers 382, 380 are substituted for the fiber-optic receiver and transmitter 282, 280, respectively, since signals enter and exit the amplifier 320 through coaxial branches 318. The amplifier 320 is otherwise very similar in structure to the node 216, and ~~therefore will not be described in detail~~ items 338, 340, 342, 356, 358, 360, 362, 376, 378, 384 and 386 correspond to items 238, 240, 242, 256, 260, 262, 276, 278, 284 and 286 respectively.

---